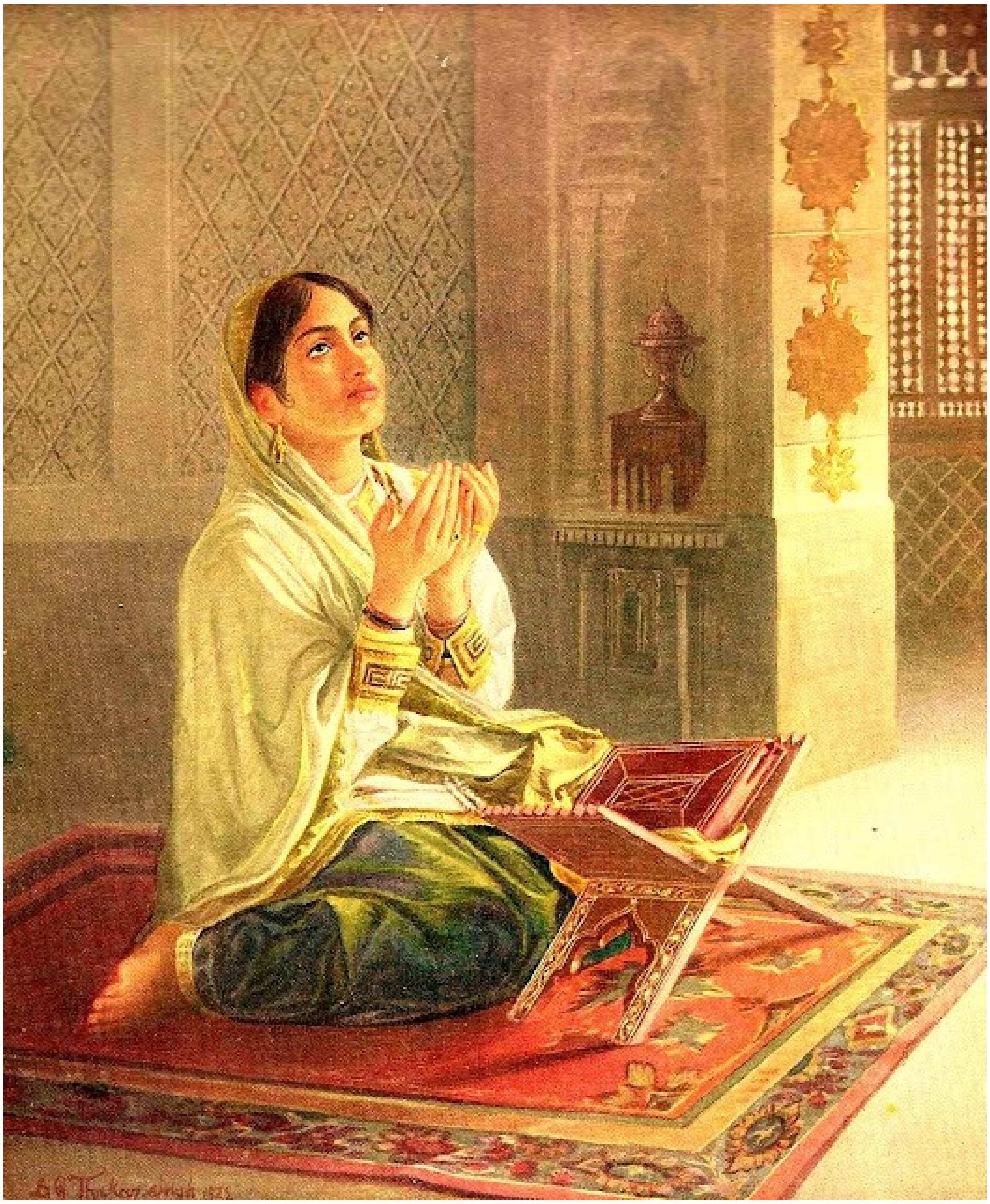
LutfunNisa Imtiaz - The first women poetess of Hyderabad Deccan



A lady in prayer - Namaz
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Introduction :

For many years it was thought that **Mahlaqa Bai**

Chanda the famous courtesan of Hyderabad was the first Women poetess of Hyderabad Deccan . The efforts of **Mr Naseeruddin Hashmi** in tracing out the works of **LutfunNisa Imtiaz** has made it very clear that she was the first Women poetess (**Sahibaan-e-divan**) of Hyderabad Deccan . Her collection is huge and consists of ***Ghazals , Masnavis / Mathnavis and Qasida's*** etc . Her biography was not known fully . A very brief mention is made in the writings of **Naseeruddin Hashmi** along with few sample pieces of her poetry . **Ms Khadija Hashmi** the daughter of **Naseeruddind Hashmi** who lives in UK was kind enough to mail me a couple of pages written about her by her father . I thought it would be appropriate to place them on my blog . I hope learned readers would appreciate this article devoted to her .

<u>Here is the translation ;</u>

Imtiaz -

Her name was **LutfunNisa Begum** . Her pen name was **Imtiaz** . She was a native of Hyderabad Deccan . She lost her mother at an early age . The noble family took care of her with all comforts . She was married to **Asad Ali Khan Tamanna** . Unfortunately , she became a

widow at an early age . She became a devotee of Shah Ataullah on account of her deep love for the religion . She went on a Haj pilgrimage and attained the status of a revered person .

Haj Pilgrimage - 1800s
Photo credits - httpsnapscoop.blogspot.com

Her Divan (Collection of poetry) was published in 1212 Hijri . It was mentioned that the Divan was published in her 36th year and hence her year of birth is 1176 Hijri . Unfortunately the year of her death could not be ascertained . The **original manuscript** (***Qalmi nuskha***) is available at the **Salar Jung Library** . It gives an impression that she covered all the genres of Urdu poetry . Apart from her Divan a heavy ,

voluminous ***Mas'navi*** "***Gulshan-e-Shura*** " was traced which bears the testimony of her name . It contains eight thousand couplets . The couplets enlighten many aspects of society and the life style of those days .

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Mr Hashmi Has given the date of publication of divan as -
1212 Hijri = 1797 AD . Her Year of Birth = 1761 AD .
Else where on the net the death of her husband Asad Ali Khan Tamanna is given as 1789-90 .
It appears that her divan was published seven years after the death of her husband .
Mahlaqa's divan was published in 1798 an year after LutfunNisa's Divan .

- Author

A lady in writing
Photo credits - thoughtfulspot.typepad.com

na samjhey kufr ko kya hai na kuch jaaney musalmani
hamen deir-o-haram yeksaaN a'bas sab ko ho hairani .

(I do not know what is Infidel and what is Muslim,
Though the world wonders ! in my eyes
TheTemple and The Mosque are but one)

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Mr Hashmi had furnished only few samples of her poetry which are given below . I am extremely grateful to my good friend Sarwar A Raz for making many corrections in transliteration of the poetry to Roman Urdu . Author

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Masnavi / Mathnavi

too ishq-e-haqeeqee se madhosh hai
sharab-e-mohobbat se behosh hai
ataa vah kiye ma'rifat ka kalaam
Ataullah saccha mere murshid ka naam
Aminuddin A'la jo hain in ke jad
woh ilm-e-haqeeqee ke hain mujtahid
jahaaN tak zameeN hai wahaaN tak ameen
haiN sab auliaa meN woh misl-e-nageen
ye qisse ko mere too maqbool kar
paRhe aur sune koi ahl-e-hunar
jo is wahm meN dil nipat kat gayaa
jo ek bibi ne yahi mujh se kahaa
jo Lutfunnisa sach hai tera hi naam

tere sh'er kaa shohra taa Room-o-Shaam .

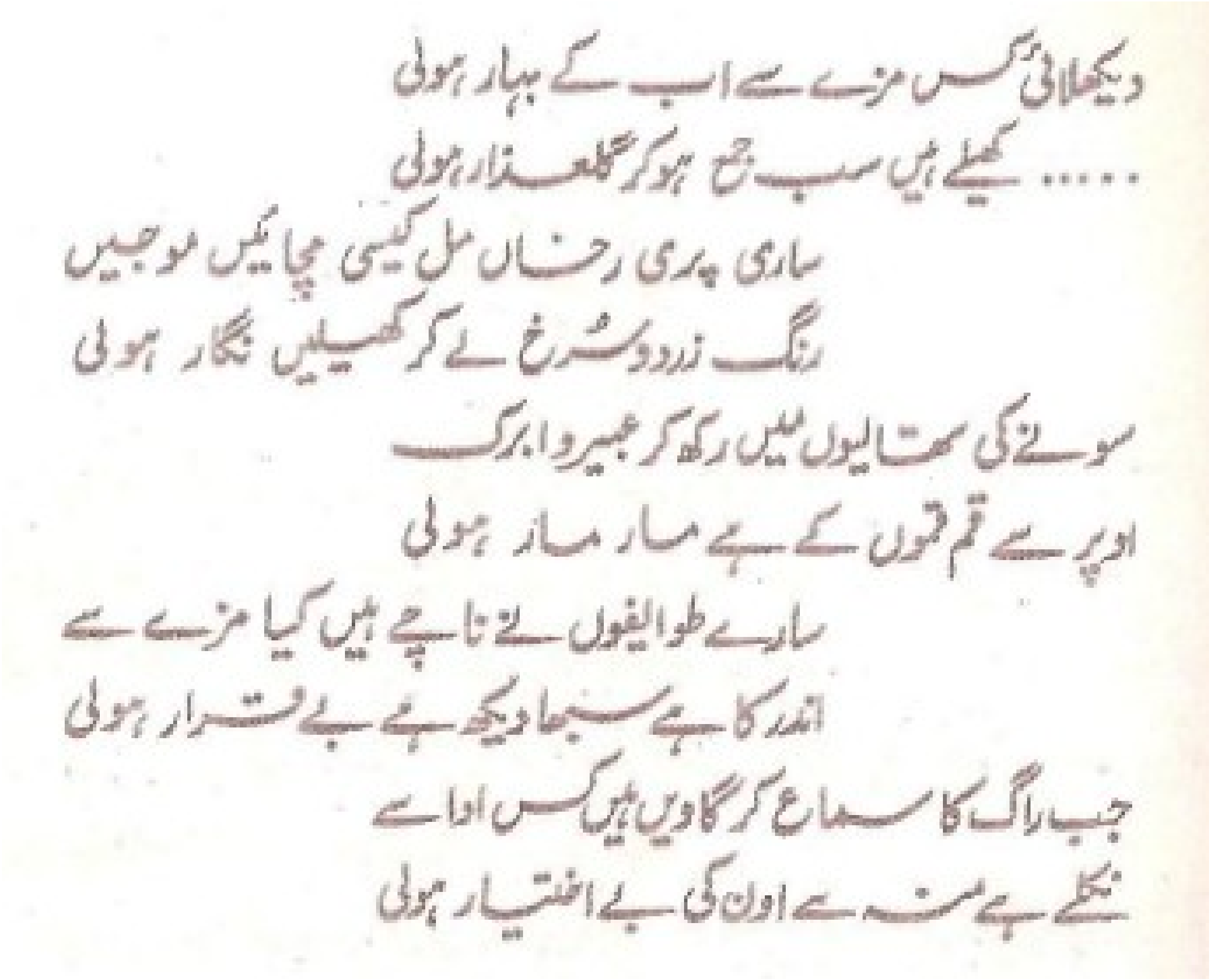
--

<u>Ghazaliyat ka namoona .</u>

<u>1.</u>
maiN ne jab khwaahish-e-sharaab kiyaa
muhatasib kaa jigar kabaab kiya

imtiaz ab tera laqab hum ne
jaaN fida'e Abu Turab kiya .

2,



دیکھلائی کس مزے سے اب کے بہار ہولی
..... کھیلے ہیں سب جمع ہو کر گلعذار ہولی

ساری پری رخاں مل کیسی مچائیں موجیں
رنگ زرد و سرخ لے کر کھیلیں نگار ہولی

سونے کی تھالیوں میں رکھ کر عبیر و ابرک
اوپر سے قمقموں کے ہے مار مار ہولی

سارے طوائفوں نے ناچے ہیں کیا مزے سے
اندر کا ہے سبھا دیکھ ہے بے قرار ہولی

جب راگ کا سماع کر گا دیں ہیں کس ادا سے
نکلے ہے منہ سے اون کی بے اختیار ہولی

Original Ghazal in Urdu

dekhlayi kis maze se ab ke bahaar holi
khelein haiN jama' ho kar sab gul-a'zaar holi

saaree paree-rukhaaN mil kaisi machaen mojaiN
rang zard-o-surkh lekar khelein nigaar holi

soney kee thaliyon men rakh kar abeer-o-abrak
oopar se qum-qumon ke hai maar maar holi

saarey tawaifon ne naache haiN kya mazey se
Inder ka hai sabha dekh hai be-qaraar holi

jab raag ka sama' kar gaaven hain kis adaa se
nikley hai munh se un ke be-ikhtiaar holi

3.

na samjhey kufr ko kya hai na kuch jaaney musalmani
hamen der-o-haram yeksaaN a'bas sab ko ho hairani .

4.

tadap kar jaan deta hai arey qatil zara aaja
hai rukhsat koi dam men haye ye bismil zara aaja

<u>Qasaaid ka namoona</u>

jab kaheeN aata nazar woh chehra-e-gulnaar hai
silsila hota hai barpaa ek aatish baar se
dekhne men hai mazaa ya kuch dikhanaa lutf hai

jee men aata hai ke poochuN saaqi-e-sarshaar se
darte darte kehdiya keh kar kaha deejo jawab
kuch to farmaao ki na maaloom ho izhaar hai
sunte hi ro ro kaha sun le arey ghafil mizaaj
mujh ko aatee hai haNsee is tere istefsaar se .

I earnestly hope the readers would appreciate her poetry .

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Posted 22nd October 2012 by Kamal

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